

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Presented is a liquid filtering apparatus and method that overcomes the disadvantages encountered with prior bed filtration systems by providing a filtering apparatus that incorporates a super-buoyant filter medium having a specific gravity very substantially lower than that of the process liquid being filtered. This feature enables a majority of the medium to float on top of the process liquid. Due to the significant differences in specific gravity between the media and the process liquid, super-buoyant media produce a highly advantageous means of naturally, gravimetrically separating both clean and contaminated filter media and process liquid into separate "phases". Under normal filtering operation, the filter media is contained within a filter housing by a bed support near the top of the filter housing, and particulate material is filtered from a process liquid that passes through the housing. To regenerate the filter media, the housing is drained and a nozzle creates a backwash spray that washes the particulate material from the filter media. During the backwash process, the filter media rises past the nozzle as the level of the backwash liquid in the housing rises, so that the entire filter media is regenerated.